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GRAY

Serial No. 09/486,183

April 21, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 12 and 17-20 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (*Cancelled*)

12. (*Currently Amended*) A method of producing a fiber reinforced composite by pultrusion having variable strength characteristics along its length, said method comprising ~~including~~ the steps of:

drawing through a pultrusion die a series of reinforcing fibers to form a pultruded fiber composite product ~~characterised by~~ incorporating in the reinforcing fibers prior to the ~~pultrusion~~ drawing step additional fibers in order to vary the strength characteristics of the final product substantially without altering the cross-sectional area thereof, a plastics matrix material being applied around the fibers and allowed to solidify to form the finished composite.

13. (*Previously presented*) A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers have a characteristic different from that of the said reinforcing fibers.

14. (*Previously presented*) A method according to claim 13 in which the said characteristic is selected from the group fiber tenacity and fiber modulus.

15. *(Previously presented)* A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers are spliced between discrete lengths of the reinforcing fibers.

16. *(Previously presented)* A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers are interlaced amongst continuous said reinforcing fibers.

17. *(Currently amended)* A method according to claim 12 in which the plastics matrix material is applied to the additional fibers, ~~within the die~~ during the drawing step.

18. *(Currently amended)* A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers are pre-impregnated with a plastics matrix material before ~~being drawn through the die~~ said drawing step.

19. *(Currently amended)* A method according to claim 12 in which the reinforcing fibers are in the form of a woven web.

20. *(Currently amended)* A method according to claim 12 in which the reinforcing fibers are in the form of a non-woven web.

21. *(Previously presented)* A composite structural member produced according to the method of claim 12.

22. *(Previously presented)* A composite structural member according to claim 21 comprising an aircraft skin stringer.

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23. (*Previously presented*) An aircraft airfoil incorporating a composite structural member according to claim 21.

24. (*Previously presented*) An aircraft containing a composite produced according to the method of claims 12.